

Silicon Times Report
The Original Independent OnLine Magazine"
(Since 1987)

May 31, 1996

No. 1222

Silicon Times Report International OnLine Magazine
Post Office Box 6672
Jacksonville, Florida 32221-6155

STR Electronic Publishing Inc.
A subsidiary of
STR Worldwide CompNews Inc.

R.F. Mariano, Editor
Featured in ITCNet's ITC_STREPORT Echo
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Cable Modem Market to Soar

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The Publisher, Staff &
Editors

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From the Editor's Desk...

Memorial Day was a glorious weekend. maybe we should be on four day work weeks altogether? Ten hours a day four days a week sounds pretty good to me. After all, I'm at it from about half past six in the morning to about the same in the evening. The thirty two bit version of Word Perfect is shipping from the fine hands of Corel. Within the next few weeks we'll have a full review for you.

Times are definitely changing, the computer memory gouge of a year ago is disappearing and the prices of Pentiums and Pentium Pro chips are becoming more sensible with every passing week. If the goals of a computer in every home is ever to be reached it has to be sensibly priced. This business of there being cost efficient "dumb terminals" available with people paying a fee to a centralized data and file base is an outrage and in my humble opinion, nothing more than a dodge put together by the control freaks in Washington DC. Of course its thrice removed, but still reeks of that type of control.

Comdex is right around the corner. Stay tuned we'll have all the latest for you.

Ralph..

Of Special Note:

<http://www.streport.com>

STReport is now ready to offer much more in the way of serving the Networks, Online Services and Internet's vast, fast growing site list and userbase. We now have our very own WEB/NewsGroup/FTP Site and although its in its early stages of construction, do stop by and have a look see. Since We've received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addressees, we were compelled to put together an Internet distribution/mailing list for those who wished to receive STReport on a regular basis, the file is ZIPPED, then UUENCODED. Unfortunately, we've also received a number of opinions that the UUENCODING was a real pain to deal with. So, as of October 01,1995, you'll be able to download STReport directly from our very own SERVER & WEB Site. While there, be sure to join our STR list.

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LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

"Up until now," AP observes, "the government has restricted the sale of these codes to the United States for reasons of national security. The government fears such codes could be used against American military or government operations. To end the restrictions, the White House proposal calls for inter-government agreements in which foreign countries would keep copies of their citizens' keys and the United States would keep copies of Americans' keys." Weise notes governments would be able to access keys in other countries during investigations by making requests similar to today's extradition proceedings.

Study Asks Encryption Reg Change

A new study commissioned by Congress suggests the United States should relax -- but not eliminate -- export controls on data-scrambling encryption technologies. Reporting for the Dow Jones news service, writer Scott Ritter notes the 18-month study says the government would be wise to promote widespread use of technologies designed to thwart computer vandals and electronic eavesdroppers.

As noted, U.S. companies currently are barred from exporting strong encryption software, a policy the computer industry says could cost it billions of dollars in losses to foreign competitors. The research, conducted by a committee of the National Research Council at the request of Congress, was paid for by the Department of Defense and the Commerce Department.

Committee Chairman Kenneth Dam, professor of American and foreign law at the University of Chicago, told the wire service, "Our committee's broad conclusion is that the wider use of cryptology will support personal privacy, U.S. business, law enforcement and national security interests, even though information-gathering for law enforcement and national security purposes may become more difficult. Thus, we believe that federal policies should promote rather than discourage the use of cryptography."

As reported, earlier this month Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., introduced legislation to lift export restrictions on the technology, a measure that has support from GOP presidential candidate Robert Dole and Commerce Committee Chairman Larry Pressler, R-S.D. "Meantime," notes Ritter, "the White House has offered a couple of different approaches to end the restrictions, including a so-called 'Clipper Chip,' which would put the code-breaking key in the government's hands. Another proposal would give the key to an electronic escrow agent; the government would have to obtain a search warrant to get the key. Neither proposal has been embraced by the computer industry."

Agent Says Net Increases Threats

The Internet -- and the access it gives people to the White House - has added to the investigations of the U.S. Secret Service, the agency that watches out for threats against the president, according to at least one agent. Reporting from Sioux City, Iowa, The Associated Press quotes Special Agent Kevin Greba as saying, "With companies online and the way things are today, anybody can send a message to the White House. This has become a problem for us."

AP says Secret Service agents interviewed students at a Sioux City middle school last week as part of an investigation into a computer message a student sent to the president. In charge of the agency's office in Omaha, Nebraska, Greba said agents have determined the student's message was not a real threat, adding his agency investigates all incidents to determine whether or not they pose a real danger. Greba said the Omaha office alone investigates cases involving computer messages every month or two.

Online Threat May Lead to Charges

A Texas college student may be extradited to California to face charges for allegedly threatening a state senator over the Internet. Sacramento, California, officials have charged 19-year-old Jose Saavedra with making "a terrorist threat" against California Sen. Tim Leslie in messages he sent to environmental and political discussion groups berating the senator's support of a failed March ballot measure removing special protection for mountain

lions.

According to United Press International, "One of the messages read, 'I think it would be great if (Leslie) were hunted down and skinned and mounted for our viewing pleasure.'" The wire service says Saavedra was arrested earlier this month in El Paso, Texas, and spent 16 days in county jail before being released on bond this week. His attorney said they will fight the extradition proceedings.

UPI reports that if Sacramento officials are successful in bringing Saavedra, a University of Texas at El Paso freshman, to trial in California, he could face up to three years in prison and fines up to \$5,000. Meanwhile, Sen. Leslie, who describes himself as an "Internet junkie," told reporters he is concerned such messages will prompt others to take similar actions, especially since the Internet is read by millions of people around the world. "What's so sinister about using the Internet," he said, "is now everyone is privy to it. People all over America are discussing my death threat."

The wire service reports some have said Saavedra did not mean the message as a threat and simply used inappropriate language, but Sen. Leslie disagrees. "It's a lesson people on the Internet need to learn," he said. "There are limits. And if they cross those limits, they'll be arrested, jailed and brought to trial."

Computers at War a Concern

More than 120 governments are developing techniques for crippling enemy defenses by disrupting computers in wartime, U.S. senators have been told. And congressional investigators say computer vandals have demonstrated the threat by stealing secrets from Air Force air combat laboratory computers two years ago and now are trying to get into U.S. military computers about 250,000 times a year.

Speaking before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations earlier this week, director Jack Brock of the congressional General Accounting Office said, "Terrorists and other adversaries now have the ability to launch untraceable attacks from anywhere in the world. They could infect critical systems with sophisticated computer viruses, potentially causing them to malfunction," he said.

Asked if the 120 countries believed to be working on the war techniques were primarily advanced industrial nations, Brock said the National Security Agency knew who they were but that the information is classified. Also Brock testified that a 16-year-old British boy and another computer intruder who was never caught stole order messages from the Air Force's Rome Laboratory in New York that commanders would send to pilots in air battle operations.

The invaders "also took control of the Air Force computers, using them to obtain information from NATO headquarters and South Korea's Atomic Research Institute," Reuters reports. The vandals could have created an international incident, the senators were told, if it had been North Korea's nuclear institute that was involved because Pyongyang would have believed the U.S. Air Force was sneaking into its computers.

Brock also said GAO investigators found many U.S. Defense Department programs for detecting attacks on computers were poor, training was inadequate and attacks were often not reported even when detected.

BBS Sysop Gets Another Sentence

California computer bulletin board system owner Robert Alan Thomas, convicted of distributing pornography after images were downloaded in Tennessee, now has been sentenced to more time in Utah, where a judge rejected claims of double jeopardy. Reporting from Salt Lake City, Utah, The Associated Press says the 40-year-old Milpitas, California, man was sentenced to 26 months in federal prison and fined \$50,000. The sentence will be served concurrently with his prison term in Tennessee.

Says AP, "The Utah authorities said they acted on a citizen's tip before downloading 16 images from the same computer system of naked and semi-naked minors that a Memphis postal inspector used to build a case against Thomas in Tennessee." Thomas' attorneys argued the second prosecution amounted to being tried twice for the same offense, adding the criminal charges should focus solely on the board's operation, not on each time a customer logs on.

However, U.S. District Judge Bruce Jenkins rejected the argument, and Thomas pleaded guilty to one count of supplying child-pornography to undercover officers in exchange for 15 others being dismissed. Said Judge Jenkins, "While it was the same bulletin board, it was different events. Different events, different consequences."

Thomas and his wife, Carleen, are serving 32-month prison sentences for their convictions last year in a much-publicized Tennessee case involving images of men and women engaging in sex acts with animals. As noted, the case is believed to be one of the first in which the prosecution took place in the locale where the materials were received, rather than where they originated. AP says none of the images in the Utah case depicted sexual acts, but, according to federal prosecutor Richard Lambert, all were accompanied by graphic and explicit descriptions making it clear they were intended as pornography.

"Free-speech advocates," notes AP, "said the precedent threatens to replace the Supreme Court's longstanding 'local community standards' test for pornography with a new 'anything offensive to anyone anywhere' standard that could hobble the rapidly growing Internet." Meanwhile, Thomas attorney Tom Nolan told the wire service the double jeopardy issue likely will be raised in an appeal to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

As reported, the 6th Circuit in Cincinnati already ruled against the Thomases, upholding their Tennessee convictions in January. "That ruling," AP reports, "said every individual community can judge for itself the obscenity of material downloaded from computer bulletin boards - no matter where that board is based."

Software Safeguards Net Graphics

Maximized Software Inc., an Irvine, California, software publisher, says it has come up a software module that protects copyrighted graphics from Internet piracy. The company's SiteShield product takes a "look but don't touch" approach, says Ken Spreitzer, Maximized's president. The software allows webmasters to identify target pages or images for protection against downloading to a user's disk.

"Our product addresses the commercial basis for Internet Web sites, as opposed to public domain material," says Spreitzer. "This encompasses high-profile images such as Mickey Mouse or Bugs Bunny, original Web-page graphics and catalogs of artists and photographers, to name a few examples.

SiteShield is plug-in module for Web server software from companies such as

Netscape, Microsoft and The Apache Organization. Maximized Software was founded by Spreitzer in 1992. Before establishing Maximized, Spreitzer achieved industry fame as author of the original Uninstaller for Windows, a program that automatically removes applications from Windows PCs.

Kodak, Microsoft Team on System

A new imaging technology designed to rastically speed up the editing and transmission of pictures by computer reportedly is in the works in a deal between Eastman Kodak Co. and Microsoft Corp. Writing in The Wall Street Journal this morning, reporter Wendy Bounds says, "With the new technology, a file format that lets computers interpret data that make up images, users can manipulate and send images between computers via the Internet and other services."

She notes what while similar technology already exists and Kodak is a late-comer to the game, "existing formats are often considered slow and cumbersome for the average consumer." Says the paper, "Kodak therefore will aim its technology and marketing muscle at these consumers -- such as real-estate agents, advertisers, even the average picture-taker -- who are frustrated by the delays that now exist in working with images on computer."

The new technology, called "Nifty," aims to save time, writes Bounds, "by applying preliminary changes to only the low-resolution version of the picture, as opposed to the more complicated high-resolution version, which takes up more memory. Once the picture has been completely modified, whose changes are then applied to the high-resolution final version. The Journal looks for Microsoft to announce a software application to use the format, noting that Microsoft chief Bill Gates, through his closely owned Corbis Corp., recently has acquired or licensed the rights to a great number of still-image archives including the New York-based Bettmann Archive and Philadelphia Museum of Art, which one day could be used with the Nifty technology. Hewlett-Packard Co. also is expected to support Nifty.

MCI, Microsoft Team Online

MCI Communications Corp. and Microsoft Corp. said today they are working together to create standards-based audio and document conferencing services over the Internet through Microsoft's new NetMeeting communications and collaboration software. In a joint statement, they said NetMeeting will make audio and document conferencing via the Internet "as easy as a phone call, and workgroup collaboration as effective as being in the same room."

The software promises to enable more than two people to share any existing Windows operating system-based application across the Internet or corporate LAN, enabling them to review and edit documents. Also, says the statement, NetMeeting's "whiteboard" and "chat" capabilities will enable Web users "to conduct meetings with illustrations, text and comments, and ultimately with the enhancement of value-added video and audio in the same application."

Cable Modem Market Set to Soar

Internet surfers seeking faster ways to access information will fuel the cable modem market, with unit shipments expected to grow 92 percent this year, according to new research from Dataquest Inc. The modem market is heating up as new technologies make higher-speed alternatives to analog modems a reality, says Dataquest. Cable modem vendors, teamed with cable operators, have a real opportunity to penetrate the consumer base of the remote LAN and Internet access market, adds the market research firm, based in San Jose, California.

"However, ISDN is taking off, and XDSL is around the corner," says Lisa Pelgrim, industry analyst in Dataquest's telecommunications group. "XDSL runs on existing telephone lines and will be a real competition for cable. The most compelling reason to use a cable modem is speed, but speed alone won't be enough to win the battle. Cable companies should take advantage of their unique situation of being a content provider and offer innovative new services in addition to basic Internet access."

Dataquest forecasts that the cable modem market will reach 25,000 units in 1996, and will grow 220 percent in 1997 when unit shipments are expected to reach 80,000 units.

Oracle Loses Top NC Executive

Just as it is preparing to launch its new Network Computer, Oracle Corp. has lost the top executive and the chief technologist behind the new device. The departure of Andrew Laursen, vice president of Oracle's network computing division, comes only days after Oracle announced that the product is ready. Laursen is leaving to join a San Francisco area start-up company called Unwired Planet Inc., which reportedly is working on wireless Internet technology.

A source close to the situation told the Reuter News Service that Laursen was approached by UnWired months ago. Laursen's office at Oracle said he is on vacation until next Thursday, but confirmed his resignation. Laursen has been in charge of developing the NC, an under-\$500 stripped-down computer whose main function would be surfing the Internet.

As reported earlier, Oracle recently announced endorsement from scores of company of the NC standards. Oracle plans to license software technology it developed for making these machines to hardware makers. Oracle has said it already had 2 million orders from telephone companies.

"The same day," notes Reuters, "Oracle announced the creation of a separate subsidiary Network Computer Inc. but it did not name Laursen as its chief. Instead Jerry Baker, a senior vice president, was named its president."

Apple Unveils New Mac Performa

Apple Computer, Inc. has unveiled the latest and fastest member of its home computer line. The new Macintosh Performa 6320CD sports a 120MHz 603e PowerPC microprocessor, 16MB of RAM and a 1.2GB hard drive. Other features include an AppleCD 600i 4-speed CD-ROM drive, a 28.8K bps internal modem, 16-bit stereo sound and an integrated TV/video system that allows users to connect to external video sources and capture images as well as view television programming.

"The Performa 6320CD is designed with the sophisticated home user in mind," says Didier Diaz, director of product marketing for Apple's Performa line. "These customers typically have children running multimedia-rich education and entertainment titles and they may work out of their home, or bring work home, and thus have demanding productivity and communications needs. They want their computer to be powerful, versatile and provide lasting value." A total of 16 preinstalled software titles and 15 CD-ROM titles are bundled with the system. The Performa 6320CD is priced at \$2,599.

Wireless Net Access Test Begins

Testing has begun in Washington on the first Internet-access product delivered by a wireless television company, says CAI Wireless Systems Inc. The company notes that the new service uses high-speed wireless modems that are capable of rapidly downloading to customers' computers full-motion video, audio and data at speeds almost seven times faster than the fastest telephone-based modems at costs that are competitive with other commercial Internet access providers.

CAI plans to develop similar systems in its other markets throughout the northeastern U.S. The wireless Internet service sends information to terminals at a rate of 10M bps, nearly seven times the rate of today's fastest T1 telephone lines, which transfer data at 1.5M bps. By year's end, CAI expects the data transfer rate to nearly triple, reaching 27M bps, as wireless modem technology advances. The system's return path receives information from customers through traditional telephone lines.

CAI's service utilizes multichannel multipoint distribution system (MMDS) technology, which transmits microwave signals over the 2GHz radio band. CAI says MMDS allows superior signal transmission with fewer disruptions than other wireless technologies transmitted at higher frequencies, which are more susceptible to obstructions such as foliage and environmental concerns such as rain.

"Our Internet access service is lightning-fast," says John J. Prisco, CAI's president. "Anyone frustrated with the agonizing delays associated with surfing the Internet using telephony-based providers will be amazed with our product. And because it is wireless, it has the potential to quickly reach a much larger customer base, particularly in outlying areas where traditional cable has yet to be installed, at much more affordable installation costs."

CAI, based in Albany, New York, operates six analog-based wireless cable systems in Albany; New York; Rochester, New York; Philadelphia; Washington; and Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Virginia. CAI also has a portfolio of wireless cable channel rights in eight additional markets, including Long Island, New York; Buffalo, New York; Syracuse, New York; Providence, Rhode Island; Hartford, Connecticut; Boston; Baltimore; and Pittsburgh.

HP Announces School Grants

Hewlett-Packard Co. says it has awarded \$540,000 in grants to six U.S. elementary school districts to help them improve how they teach science. Each school district will receive \$30,000 annually for up to three years to develop "hands-on" science programs in which students learn by conducting experiments and studies, rather than just by reading textbooks and listening to lectures.

The school districts are Sunnyvale Elementary, Sunnyvale, California; Cheyenne Mountain/Lewis-Palmer, Colorado Springs, and Weld County, LaSalle, Colorado; Meridian, Idaho; Lawrence, Massachusetts; and Arlington Independent, Arlington, Texas. All of the districts are near an HP sales or production operation. A local HP scientist or engineer will help each district implement its program.

Nearly 40 school districts in eight states, serving more than 170,000 students, have received grants worth more than a total of \$3.1 million since HP began its Hands-On Science Program in 1992. The program was developed with help from the National Science Resources Center, a Washington, D.C.-based organization sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academy of Sciences to improve the teaching of science and math in the nation's schools.

Study: Consumers Want Integration

Consumers are looking forward to the benefits of home automation and integrated consumer electronics products, finds a new survey issued by the Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association (CEMA). Energy conservation, entertainment and cost savings are all important considerations to the survey's participants. Most participants showed interest in a variety of integrated systems using the PC, telephone, TV or other electronic product to control or monitor the home network. Half of the people surveyed are aware of home systems technology and would like to connect their telephone answering machine, PC, electronic home security system and home stereo to an integrated system.

A large group, more than 70 percent, indicated they would want the system to include connection to their TV and VCR. Roughly 60 percent indicated interest in purchasing products with the capability to tie in to a home system. Convenience in entertainment was the top issue with many of those surveyed. Fifty-two percent said they would be interested in being able to watch a rented movie on any TV in the house from a single VCR; 61 percent said they would like to be able to watch cable or satellite TV on any TV in the house. Thirty-one percent indicated that the main function of an integrated system in their home would be entertainment.

"The study shows consumers are interested in -- and willing to pay for -- the integration of electronics in their homes," says John Galante, the CEMA's director of integrated home systems. "They want the increased convenience, energy conservation, security and just plain fun and excitement that results from tying the products together." The nationwide study consisted of a telephone survey of 850 consumers.

Gates Sees PC Prices at \$500

Bill Gates predicts the price of personal computers eventually will fall to around \$500, but that the machines will provide far more power than the so-called network computer being touted for exclusive online computing. Speaking in Boston at a Harvard University conference on the Internet, the Microsoft Corp. CEO said the computer industry is divided over whether the PC will be replaced by the network computer, which will perform many of the same functions as a PC but with less hardware by using the Internet.

Reporter Michael Ellis of the Reuter News Service quotes Gates as saying he thinks technology is advancing to the point where the price of PCs could fall to around \$500, about the same price envisioned by many proponents of the network computer, including Oracle Corp. and Sun Microsystems Inc. Says Gates, "I think PCs will get less expensive. They've got to get down to, say, even \$500.

The market to date has opted for more power at the same price. As the absolute power gets to a certain level ... then eventually the marketplace will move a lot of that innovation into lower prices." He added the debate over PCs versus network computers will be better defined once network computers finally become commercially available. "There's going to be a key milestone to come, though, which is when they actually make one," he said to laughter. "At that point, we'll be able to look at it and say, well, what did they take away."

- Provides Superset of Today's Popular Web Browser Functionality;
- Leaps Ahead With Next-Generation Platform for Active Web Content via ActiveX Technologies

REDMOND, Wash. - May 29, 1996 - Microsoft Corp. today announced the immediate, worldwide availability of Microsoft's Internet Explorer version 3.0 beta software, the next generation of its popular World Wide Web browser and the first to support ActiveX technologies. For users, Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 provides a dynamic browsing experience for viewing content created in Java, JavaScript, Netscape's Plug-ins and HTML extensions as well as content created with ActiveX technologies and HTML 3.2 extensions. For developers and webmasters, Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 introduces a comprehensive, next-generation architecture for creating active Web content, bringing Internet capabilities beyond the browser to applications and operating systems. The software is available now for no charge (other than the cost of downloading) over the Internet at the Microsoft Web site, <http://microsoft.com/ie/>.

"Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 is a step ahead of the pack," said Brad Chase, general manager in the Internet platform and tools division at Microsoft Corp. "It is the first and only Web browser that gives people choices about how they surf the Net. With a single click of the mouse, they can download Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 free of charge and access cutting-edge Internet content for the ultimate Web experience."

Next Generation in Active Content Best Viewed With Microsoft Internet Explorer

The new open architecture in Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 supports the full use of programmable, active Internet content and applications.

- ActiveX controls. With ActiveX, developers can build Internet applications by writing ActiveX controls that users can download from the Internet and run in Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0. ActiveX controls create unlimited possibilities for what users can do on the Internet. These cross-platform software components include the thousands of existing ActiveX controls (formerly OLE controls), Java Applets and new ActiveX controls, such as the ActiveMovie API.
- ActiveX Documents. Users can open richly formatted documents, such as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, directly in the browser. They can use the power of the application to view and edit the data directly.
- ActiveX Script. With native support for Visual Basic Script and JavaScript, Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 provides the most comprehensive and language-independent script capabilities. Microsoft Internet Explorer can be extended to support additional scripting languages such as REXX, CGI and PERL. Web page designers can plug any scripting language into their HTML code to create interactive pages that link together ActiveX controls, Java Applets and other software components.
- Java Applets. In the next beta release, Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 will ship with Java Virtual Machine, which includes the Microsoft Just-In-Time Java compiler. Thus, Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 will provide a very fast way to run Java applications. Additionally, Java application classes are exposed as ActiveX controls under Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0, allowing Java applications to talk to other Java applications, ActiveX controls and operating system features such as multimedia audio and video elements.
- HTML enhancements. Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 provides the broadest support of any browser for HTML standards, including HTML 3.2. This support includes that for borderless and floating frames, style sheets and tables. By

embracing and extending HTML 3.2, Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 offers unprecedented ease of use and flexibility for developers, and legibility for users.

- Integrated multimedia support. Web pages come alive with Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 through built-in multimedia support and ActiveX multimedia controls, including ActiveMovie, providing playback of popular video and audio formats on the Internet. Support is enabled for efficient playback of MPEG audio and video, .AVI files, QuickTime, AU, .WAV, MIDI and AIFF formats.

Developers can use ActiveX technologies to add rich functionality for many types of applications, including interactive multimedia elements, vertical market solutions and more.

"ActiveX technology is our choice for providing online commerce controls to our customers," said Gerry Bakker, president of CDI. "Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 provides access to the rich content that ActiveX makes possible."

Exciting New Communication, Collaboration and Personalization Capabilities

In addition to enabling next-generation Web content, Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 also provides users with a host of new features for an easier-to-use and more personalized Internet experience:

- NetMeeting conferencing software. Microsoft NetMeeting, also announced today, offers next-generation communication and collaboration features. NetMeeting makes voice and data communications over the Internet as easy as a

phone call, and real-time workgroup collaboration as effective as being in the same room. NetMeeting offers multiuser application sharing and whiteboard

and chat capabilities. Because it supports international standards, two or more people can participate in real-time interactive conferences even when separated by countries or continents.

- Internet Mail and News. Microsoft Internet Mail and News, a small, easy-to-use, lightweight e-mail client and news reader, is targeted toward customers looking for a simple way to communicate using SMTP and/or POP e-mail and NNTP news. Based on its support for international character sets, Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 is the only Web browser that enables people to read Web pages composed in other languages.

- Secure conversation and commerce. Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 is the first browser to support the safe downloading of code and controls, providing

"shrink wrap" for the Internet. With support for SSL2/3, PCT 1.0 and client and server authentication, Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 provides the widest set of technologies for keeping conversations private. Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 will also add support for the secure electronic transactions (SET) specification, enabling secure commerce as soon as the specification is released.

- Customizable home page and administration kit. Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 offers a range of ways to customize Internet viewing, including custom organization of the toolbar, favorites folder and home page. For example, users can set their home page to download favorite stock quotes, news, movie times and more so that the information they want is available the

moment they log on. The Microsoft Internet Explorer Administration Kit (IEAK), also announced today, is a new tool that allows corporate information

service managers, Internet service providers and Internet content providers

to create customized versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer for distribution to their customers and end users.

- Content Advisor. This release also marks the first implementation of a Platform for Internet Content Selection-compliant (PICS) rating system. Microsoft Corp. and the Recreational Software Advisory Council (RSAC) joined efforts to build technology to advance parental control over Internet access and content. Together, RSAC's rating system adapted for the Internet (RSACi) and the Microsoft Content Advisor feature make it possible for parents and others to set access to Web sites based on industry-standard ratings of their

content. Microsoft and RSAC worked with industry leaders to develop a solution based on the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C's) Platform for Internet Content Selection. For more information on available parental control software solutions, visit <http://microsoft.com/ie/ratings/>.

"The Recreational Software Advisory Council teamed with Microsoft to develop a solution that lets consumers decide, based on their beliefs, what material is appropriate for themselves and their children," said Stephen Balkam, executive director of RSAC. "The RSACi system enables parents to set levels of nudity, sex, language and violence, and to effectively screen out offensive material."

Microsoft Introduces Internet Explorer Administration Kit;
Cross-Platform Solution Lets Corporations, ISPs, Others
Easily Customize Web Browsers

Microsoft IEAK to Be Distributed Without Charge to 700 ISPs Licensing
Microsoft Internet Explorer; Also Available at No Charge to Corporate
Customers, ISPs, ICPs

REDMOND, Wash. - May 29, 1996 - Microsoft Corp. today announced the Microsoft Internet Explorer Administration Kit (IEAK), a new tool for the popular Microsoft Internet Explorer Web browser that allows corporate information service managers, Internet service providers (ISPs) and Internet content providers (ICPs) to create customized versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer for distribution to their customers and end users. The Microsoft IEAK is another of the extensive suite of offerings available with Microsoft Internet Explorer. Other components recently announced include Microsoft Internet Mail and News, and Microsoft NetMeeting Internet conferencing software.

The company will distribute the kit without charge to the more than 700 ISPs who licensed Microsoft Internet Explorer 2.0. Microsoft has also made it available at no charge to all other qualified ISPs, ICPs and corporate customers; it can be downloaded at <http://microsoft.com/ie/>. The cross-platform solution supports the creation of master diskette and CD-ROM versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer for the Windows 95, Windows NT Workstation and Windows 3.1 operating systems and is scheduled to be expanded within 60 days to support diskette and CD-ROM distribution for Apple Macintosh platforms. The CD-ROM version also includes the no-charge Internet Assistants for Microsoft Office applications for Windows 95.

"With the Microsoft Internet Explorer Administration Kit, corporate IS managers, ISPs and ICPs can customize Microsoft Internet Explorer to meet the need of their audience," said Brad Chase, general manager in the Internet

platform and tools division at Microsoft. "This is a great tool for companies to use to point customers and users to informative sites on the Web or the corporate intranet that they may not have known about."

By stepping through an easy-to-use software wizard, Microsoft IEAK users can easily customize the Microsoft Internet Explorer start page, home page and favorites folder to reflect the specific needs of their organization and end users. ISPs are given the option of participating in a second level of customization, which allows them to co-brand Microsoft Internet Explorer with their company logo in the animated flag section of the browser and add their company name to the title bar.

"The Microsoft Internet Explorer Administration Kit makes a great product even better for our customers by allowing us to preset Microsoft Internet Explorer so customers have easier access to valuable information," said Mark Chestnut, vice president of sales and marketing at Northwest Nexus. "We will be adding interesting local sites to the favorites menu, which is a feature our customers love."

The Microsoft IEAK Wizard also walks ISPs through the process of creating customized end-user sign-up programs that they can freely distribute to users in more than 10 languages. Microsoft is the only company that offers Web browser distribution at no charge and with a high level of customization.

"Asia On-Line is the fastest growing online service in Asia, and we need to serve customers in different countries," said Tom C.K. Yuen, chairman of Asia Communications Global, the parent company of Asia On-Line. "The combination of customization features and unparalleled international support makes Microsoft Internet Explorer a perfect browser for our needs."

This release of the IEAK adds an additional component for distributors and administrators to include as part of their offerings - the beta version of Microsoft Internet Mail and News. Microsoft Internet Mail and News is a small, lightweight e-mail client and news reader targeted toward customers looking for a simple way to communicate using SMTP/POP e-mail and NNTP news. The IEAK allows for the customization and automatic setup of these services by allowing administrators to preconfigure the names of servers before distributing the software.

Corporate IS managers can use the Microsoft IEAK to preset the Microsoft Internet Explorer start page and search page to servers on their corporate intranets. Various departments in the company can have their servers added to the favorites folder. When Microsoft Internet Explorer is then distributed throughout the company, users have easy access to all the corporate resources.

ICPs, software developers, Web publishers, PC manufacturers and consumers are all accelerating their adoption of Microsoft Internet Explorer, making it the world's fastest-growing Web browser as well as the only Web browser localized and available in 23 major languages and for all major Windows and Macintosh platforms.

More than 8,000 developers have already created Web sites optimized for Microsoft Internet Explorer, and that number continues to climb by 350 sites each week. Many of the leading PC manufacturers - more than 80 - ship Microsoft Internet Explorer preinstalled in their Windows 95-based PCs.

(STReport's WEBSITE is optimized for Internet Explorer 3.0)

Microsoft NetMeeting Conferencing Software Provides
Easy Voice, Data Internet Communications; Available on the Web Now
Standards-Based, Multiuser Software Enables Easy, Effective Workgroup
Collaboration;
More Than 20 Leading Companies Delivering Interoperable Products

REDMOND, Wash. - May 29, 1996 - Microsoft Corp. today announced that its NetMeetingT communications and collaboration software, in conjunction with the Microsoft Internet Explorer version 3.0 beta software, is available today worldwide to download at no charge (other than the cost of download time) from the World Wide Web. NetMeeting is the Internet's first real-time communications client that includes support for international conferencing standards and provides true multiuser application-sharing and data-conferencing capabilities. NetMeeting makes voice and data communications over the Internet as easy as a phone call and workgroup collaboration as effective as all participants being in the same room. NetMeeting is another element of the suite of offerings available with Microsoft Internet Explorer.

"Talking and working together in real time will clearly be the next big thing on the Web," said Brad Chase, general manager in the Internet platform and tools division at Microsoft. "Microsoft NetMeeting supports application sharing and conferences among more than two people, and international standards for the broadest possible interoperability. It literally is as easy as making a phone call."

Application Sharing and Multiuser Capabilities Set NetMeeting Apart

Unlike other Internet conferencing software, the application-sharing capabilities in NetMeeting allow two or more people to simultaneously share virtually any existing Windows operating system-based application across the Internet, a corporate LAN or the public telephone network, enabling business professionals and their clients around the world to review and edit documents without leaving their offices. Any participant in a conference can remotely view and control shared applications, enabling remote presentations, telecommuting or Web-based customer service. NetMeeting's whiteboard, chat, file transfer and shared-clipboard features allow groups of people to conduct meetings, share information, and jointly annotate diagrams, text and comments in a shared workspace.

NetMeeting supports international standards, allowing two or more people to participate in real-time, interactive conferences even when separated by continents.

NetMeeting's Internet telephone capabilities allow point-to-point voice conversations anywhere in the world for the cost of an Internet connection. The User Location Service (ULS) provides a mechanism for users of NetMeeting to locate other people on the Internet, even if their Internet addresses change. A sample of the ULS can be found at <http://uls.microsoft.com/>.

"Audio and data conferencing enables our design centers to collaborate on new product designs, which increases productivity and speeds the release of new products," said Roy Arild, a design and characterization engineer at Cypress Semiconductor. "Support for international standards is a critical prerequisite to make conferencing an integral communications tool."

Unmatched Support for Standards to Spur Interoperable Web Conferencing

Microsoft NetMeeting is the first software shipped on the Web to support International Telecommunications Union (ITU) standards for multiuser data

conferencing, facilitating a truly interoperable multivendor Internet conferencing world, including multipoint servers, videoconferencing systems, secure firewalls, room conferencing systems, interactive whiteboards and other third-party products. NetMeeting currently supports open, international standards from both the ITU and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). The ITU T.120 data conferencing standard enables real-time multiuser collaboration and file transfer over the Internet, intranet or telephone network. NetMeeting also supports the Realtime Protocol (RTP) from the IETF, used to transmit and synchronize real-time streams over the Internet.

"Apple is committed to supporting international standards, including T.120 and H.323, for conferencing and collaboration over the Internet," said Carlos Montalvo, director of the Interactive Media Group at Apple Computer Inc. "Our support for these standards is a key element of our strategy for ensuring a robust environment for conferencing and collaboration over the Internet between Macintosh and Windows-based platforms."

Industry Building Products Interoperable With NetMeeting

NetMeeting is based on the ActiveXT technologies conferencing platform, announced in March at the Microsoft Professional Developers Conference - Building Internet Solutions, with support from over 120 companies. Developers can easily add conferencing capabilities to their products using a software development kit that is also available on the Web.

"The Internet continues to grow by leaps and bounds, both in the number of users and the availability of new applications such as the Microsoft NetMeeting Internet conferencing software," said Philip Knell, president and general manager of networkMCI Conferencing. "MCI plans to deliver multipoint Internet conferencing services compatible with NetMeeting."

More than 20 companies are today announcing shipping or planned delivery of conferencing products and services that are compatible with NetMeeting (see attached list).

Microsoft NetMeeting is available now along with the beta version of Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0, and can be downloaded without charge from the Microsoft Web site at <http://microsoft.com/ie/conf/>.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers. The company offers a wide range of products and services for business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing every day. Microsoft, NetMeeting, ActiveX, ActiveMovie and Visual Basic are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corp. in the United States and/or other countries. Netscape is a trademark of Netscape Communications Corp. QuickTime is a registered trademark of Apple Computer Inc. ObjectShare.120 is a trademark of VTEL Corp. LiveShare, LiveLAN and Live100 are trademarks of PictureTel Corp. ProShare is a trademark of Intel Corp. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer Inc.

For online product information:

Microsoft Internet Explorer Web page: <http://microsoft.com/ie/>.

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Editor's MailBag

Messages * NOT EDITED * for content

To: rmariano@streport.com
Cc: rlquinn@ix.netcom.com
Date: Tue, 28 May 1996 13:48:58 EST
Subject: Yessir I'm voting for Dole!!
Message-ID: <19960528.134859.3607.0.ronquinn@juno.com>
X-Mailer: Juno 1.00
X-Juno-Line-Breaks: 22-23,30-31,36-38
From: ronquinn@juno.com (Ron E Quinn)

In reference to your editorial in the April 5, 1996 issue of the Silicon Times Report: I disagree with your assessment that just because we know Clinton after 3 yrs. in office, we should keep him. That makes absolutely no sense. The devil himself could be the president, but I wouldn't want to keep him just because we know how evil he is. You said you would vote for Dole if he had a running mate that was strong on Human Rights, so that leads me to think that you are pro-life. If not, then you should be because the ultimate loss of Human Rights is murder, and that's what is being done every time an abortion is performed. Anyone that doesn't think that abortion is murder is sadly mistaken. I get tired of hearing women advocates say that they don't want the government controlling them. I am all for individual rights, and I think the government has it's fingers in many things that it shouldn't. A bumper sticker I once saw says it all "I am for the rights of all women, including the unborn". I was totally shocked when Clinton was elected as president. It is truly embarrassing to me. It says a lot for the morales of our society that we could elect a man to our highest office that cheated on his wife for several years. Yes, I know he is human and should be given a second chance because we all make mistakes. But the problem with that thinking is that he should be a model for the rest of us.

Our children should be able to look up to him and say "I want to be just like him". If one of my kids said that, I would be inclined to wash their mouths out with soap! Yes, I agree that Dole should pick his running mate carefully. I just hope he doesn't jump on the band wagon and select Colin Powell. Powell is for two issues I disagree with, pro abortion and affirmative action. Yes, I said affirmative action. I am against all forms of discrimination, including that one. We can't atone for the past, and I never owned a slave, and what makes you think that just because I am white, that my ancestors weren't slaves or persecuted in other ways.

Anyway, after straying from the point. I just want to clarify that we should not vote for Clinton just because he is an evil that we have learned to live with. Look at what Dole stands for, and if you can't go for him, look at the other candidates, or write in your own, but let's not settle for Clinton.

Ron Quinn

Ron,

As for voting for Clinton because he's "an evil we've learned to live with" is a pretty broad intrpretation of what was said. But then, that's the nature of the beast. What was meant, if not stated clearly enough was simple. we know how Clinton operates and that's all it was meant to say. We know he is not a sap for big business, Big Tobacco and every other BIG Dollar making conglomerate as Bob Dole is. Also it meant to say watch out for the Dole ticket as we still have no idea who his running mate will be. With Dole in his seventies. odds are weare actually voting the running mate in as the "next president". Do we "need' another "do nothing but pardon Nixon" Gerald

Ford?? I think not. Do we need another "gouge the little guy" Republican like Ronnie ("I had nothing to do with Iran-Contra") Reagan? Again, I think not. I must admit Clinton is nothing to write home about but up to this point, he's our best bet for the little guys in this country and the health of the nation. He isn't supporting the Tobacco giants (aka "Cancer Merchants") like Robert Dole is.

To: rmariano@streport.com
Date: Wed, 29 May 1996 09:43:46 GMT+8
Subject: Silicon Times Report.
Reply-to: elvintan@dupre.lugs.org.sg
Priority: normal
X-mailer: Pegasus Mail v3.22

Hi,

Just wanted to tell U that the Silicon Times Report is a GREAT report. I'm on the mailing list and I read every article. But one thing that REALLY irritates me. Why don't U just send the WHOLE article thru the mailing listserver? It's a little big, but U can spread it into 2 mails. Having to uuencode it, then PKUNZIPing it into a dir and then reading it is VERY troublesome. It will be a lot easier if I just read the mail !

Hope U listen to my suggestion.

Elvin
--
Elvin,

We're looking into modifying the method of sending out STReport at this time. We should arrive at a solution very soon. Thank you for reading our humble offering.

Apple/Mac Section
John Deegan, Editor

Apple Computer, Inc.

Press Release

Apple Announces Developer Release of MkLinux, Linux for Power Macintosh

Leading User-Supported Version of UNIX to be Available to Power Macintosh Users

WWDC, SAN JOSE. California--May 17, 1996--Apple Computer, Inc. announced today that it is making available the Developer Release 1 CD of MkLinux. Linux is a freely distributable version of UNIX. Apple, in conjunction with the Open Software Foundation (OSF), has ported Linux to support a variety of Power Macintosh products. MkLinux (Microkernel Linux) operates on the OSF Mach Microkernel which will be running natively on the PowerPC microprocessor.

The Developer Release 1 CD is being distributed free to attendees at the Linux session at Apple's World Wide Developer's Conference, being held in

San Jose this week. The Developer's Release 1 available this week will allow software developers to use a pre-release version of the product, and provide feedback to Apple for the final version.

In addition, Apple has authorized Prime Time Freeware (<http://www.ptf.com>) to publish Apple's reference release of MkLinux for the Power Macintosh. Prime Time Freeware, a publisher of freely redistributable software for technical and professional markets, has scheduled the release of "MkLinux: Mach/Linux for the Power Macintosh" for September 1996. The product, retailing for U.S. \$50, will contain an installable version of MkLinux, source code, and extensive documentation on Linux, Mach, MkLinux, and the Power Macintosh.

"Apple is supporting Linux as part of an overall effort to embrace more open industry standards, particularly those popular in the Internet community," said Ike Nassi, vice president of Apple system software technologies. "This software will be particularly popular with Mac users in higher education and the scientific research communities."

With Linux, a student will have an extremely low-cost, yet high-performance PowerPC-based UNIX system for personal use. Advanced research that requires UNIX applications will now be possible on an engineer's personal Macintosh. MkLinux for Power Macintosh adds a new UNIX alternative for PowerPC systems to existing products such as AIX from IBM and MachTen from Tenon Intersystems. This gives Macintosh users a range of options from a free, user-supported UNIX implementation up to commercial, mission critical solutions for large enterprises.

In keeping with the spirit of the Linux community, Apple is making the source code for Developer Release 1 freely available on the Apple MkLinux web site at <http://www.mklinux.apple.com>. This includes source code to the Mach microkernel and the required Macintosh platform driver support. Developers interested in MkLinux should check this web site for further information and updates.

Price and Availability

The MkLinux for Power Macintosh Developer Release 1 CD will be distributed free to attendees of the Linux session at Apple's World Wide Developer Conference this week. The CDs will also be available from Prime Time Freeware for U.S. \$10 each. The reference release, "MkLinux: Mach/Linux for the Power Macintosh", is scheduled for publication in September 1996 at a suggested retail price of U.S. \$50. Snapshots of MkLinux, along with updates, patches, and late-breaking news, will be available on <http://www.mklinux.apple.com>.

Developers who cannot attend the Linux session at WWDC can obtain a Developer Release 1 CD from Prime Time Freeware at (408) 433-9662, fax (408) 433-0727, email: info@ptf.com or web site at <http://www.ptf.com>

Apple Computer, Inc., a recognized innovator in the information industry and leader in multimedia technologies, creates powerful solutions based on easy-to-use personal computers, servers, peripherals, software, personal digital assistants and Internet content. Headquartered in Cupertino, California, Apple develops, manufactures, licenses and markets solutions, products, technologies and services for business, education, consumer, entertainment, scientific and engineering and government customers in more than 140 countries.

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Sandra Livinghouse Burson-Marsteller for Apple Computer, Inc. (408) 974-1109
email: slivinghouse@applelink.apple.com

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Apple's home page on the World Wide Web: <http://www.apple.com>

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CLIPPER 3 ON THE DRAWING BOARD

Interactive Week reports that the Clinton administration hasn't given up on its plans to force technology companies to include some kind of electronic key for decoding encrypted communications in their products. As in previous Clipper proposals, the key would be stored with a third party, and law enforcement officials need a court's permission to obtain it. The sweetener in the current proposal, is that in exchange for approving the Clipper chip, the administration would eliminate all limits on exporting U.S. encryption technology. (Investor's Business Daily 22 May 96 A6)

BROKERAGES ANNOUNCE INTERNET PLANS

Three of the largest financial services companies plan to spend about \$1.5 billion this year to increase their presence on the Internet and upgrade their electronic offerings. Charles Schwab & Co., Fidelity Investments and Merrill Lynch & Co. each will use a different approach to incorporating the Internet into their business plans. Charles Schwab says 20% of its business already comes from electronic stock and mutual fund orders. Schwab will expand that to include electronic payment capability, and predicts online orders will "represent 30 to 40 percent of order entry in the next four to five years." Merrill Lynch plans to offer online investment information as well as access to banking services, stock quotes and account statements. "We see our professionals as the ultimate search engines," says the company's executive VP. Fidelity will spend much of its money on new technology and computer systems. (St. Petersburg Times 23 May 96 E6)

ONLINE BANKING COMPANY A HIT ON WALL STREET

The stock of the Security First Network Bank, which offers banking services via the Internet, more than doubled on its first day of trading. One analyst explained the excitement by saying that "some investors believe this represents the future of banking." (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 24 May 96 H6)

APPLE PUSHES QUICKTIME STANDARD

As part of its revival, Apple Computer is hoping others will adopt some of its technology products as standards. The reasons are obvious: "If your standards get adopted, then others don't," says a Dataquest analyst. Apple's candidates are QuickTime, Cyberdog and OpenDoc, but industry observers are placing their bets on QuickTime, software used to blend sound,

video and other elements of multimedia programs. "I think it's pretty much a slam-dunk," says an editor of a Macintosh research service. "Quicktime is already an industry standard in multimedia authoring. And as the Internet infrastructure develops, you'll see more and more rich content on the Web -- animation, sound and video. QuickTime is an engine that can be used to synchronize these different media streams." (Investor's Business Daily 22 May 96 A6)

CERT FOR A FEE

The Computer Emergency Response Team at Carnegie Mellon University has begun offering its computer security services to subscribers who pay \$25,000 a year. The CERT Affiliates Program will respond to break-ins, and provide training and consulting on computer system security. About 30 companies have signed up so far, and CERT says it will continue to provide free but limited incident response services to non-subscribers. Information Week 20 May 96 p32)

FLAT PC SCREENS HEAD FOR THE DESKTOP

Liquid crystal display screens currently cost about five times that of a similarly-sized cathode ray tube screen, but that should be changing over the next couple of years, say LCD makers. Next year, major LCD vendors expect to halve the difference, bringing prices down to two-and-a-half times that of CRTs. Analysts say when the difference comes down to that point, the desktop replacement market could really take off. "CRT replacement is inevitable, it's just that in the near term there are a lot of hurdles," says an analyst at Stanford Resources. "The place where it makes the most sense are with large-screen LCDs." NEC recently unveiled a 20-inch high-resolution LCD screen with wide-angle viewing designed as a "CRT-killer" according to a NEC engineer. (Investor's Business Daily 23 May 96 A8)

1-888-RIP-OFF!

Enterprising entrepreneurs are hoarding and leasing toll-free 888 numbers, and the Federal Communications Commission is contemplating new rules to crack down on the practice. Third-party number brokers applied for and got numbers such as MAC-WEEK, WE ARE GM, etc. and now are pressuring the companies' whose names they've appropriated for thousands of dollars up front, plus royalties, to use the numbers. "It was suddenly like the Wild West -- brokers went crazy," says a Washington attorney representing some of the companies. One holder of 600 desirable numbers says, "We've had some companies tell us this is foul play, blackmail, extortion. But my attitude is, You want the number? Come and get it." (Business Week 27 May 96 p42)

SKIP

Sun Microsystems is claiming industry support for its Simple Key Management for Internet Protocol (SKIP) encryption and key management system for allowing secure distribution of applets over private and public networks. (Computer Industry Daily 24 May 96)

COMPAQ, THOMSON TO BUILD PC-TV

Compaq Computer and Thomson Consumer Electronics are teaming up to produce devices that combine the functions of PCs and televisions, and plan to have their first products out in a year or so. Compaq is the biggest PC seller, and Thomson is the largest U.S. maker of TV sets. "What we have is two big companies smelling a market and trying to figure out how to reach it," says the president of a New York technology research firm. "Digital electronics is moving very rapidly into the consumer space and it's very clear there will be TV-PCs or PC-TVs in many forms. What's less clear is who will sell them and where will they go in the house. There's a lot of market research to be done." (Investor's Business Daily 23 May 96 A3)

NORTHERN TELECOM PHONES GET JAVATIZED

Northern Telecom plans to incorporate Sun Microsystems' Java microprocessors and software in a new class of inexpensive "smart" telephones designed to double as Internet appliances. The move makes Northern Telecom the first telephone manufacturer to license Java chips for its products. The chips will be used in its wired PowerTouch phones and its wireless digital phones, and customer trials should start next year. (Wall Street Journal 23 May 96 B3)

INFO-HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT IN CANADA

A Canadian government report called "Building the Information Society" urges development of secure systems for buying and selling, transferring money and protecting personal data, and outlines a plan for cooperation between public and private sectors in order to accelerate the conversion to electronic commerce.

<<http://info.ic.gc.ca/> > (bdgraham@achilles.net, 23 May 96)

PRODIGY GOES GLOBAL

Prodigy's new owners, International Wireless and a group of Prodigy executives, are planning to make the online service multilingual beginning later this year. The first step will be a Spanish-language service that will use content from Grupo Carso, a major shareholder in International Wireless. An Asian service will also be operational by the end of the year and an African version will soon follow, according to International wireless, which already owns an online service in Africa. (Broadcasting & Cable 20 May 96 p65)

APPLE PARES DOWN

Apple CEO Gil Amelio has announced plans to trim the number of different Macintosh models to about 40, which will help cut manufacturing costs and consumer decision-making time. Says one user: "Any action to make it easier for the buyer is great. There are too many choices, and that leads to confusion." By year's end, every Mac shipped will include 12 Mb of DRAM for better handling of graphics on the Web, and the company says all new systems will feature more hardware and software extensions for easier Net connections. (Information Week 20 May 96 p77)

PHILIPS SEES GREEN IN LASERS

Philips Electronics has figured out a way to use green lasers instead of red to read data from a laser disk. Their shorter wavelength allows the green lasers to read and write denser information, but in order to be practical Philips has to solve their longevity problem. They need to last 10,000 hours to be useful, and right now, they only last about four. (Business Week 27 May 96 p97)

HUGHES DISHES UP DATA

An arrangement between Microsoft and Hughes's DirecTV will allow PC users to tap into TV signals via Hughes's 18-inch dish antennas. Some newer PCs will be equipped with receivers that decode the satellite signal, in much the same way a set-top box does. The companies say in addition to DirecTV's 175 channels, they plan to offer interactive data services, such as the ability to download sports statistics, selected Web pages, multimedia magazines and information that complements TV shows. (Popular Science June 96 p47)

PACTEL OFFERS INTERNET ACCESS

San Francisco-based regional phone company Pacific Telesis will offer its customers Internet access at a range of prices topped at \$19.95 a month for unlimited usage. The company has engineered its network to deal with a high volume of Internet traffic and has established 24-hour customer service assistance staffed by Internet specialists. (Wall Street Journal 28 May 96

A3)

DSVD MODEMS THAT TALK TO EACH OTHER

Digital Simultaneous Voice and Data modems (DSVD) can send voice and data simultaneously over the same phone line, but the problem up to now has been that the devices couldn't "talk" with DSVD modems made by a different vendor. The International Telecommunication Union is planning to change all that, and last month approved a new DSVD protocol to solve the communications problem. DSVD modem makers are now looking at ways to retrofit older devices already out in the workplace so that they'll conform to the new standard. (Investor's Business Daily 28 May 96 A10)

PUBLIC ACCESS NETWORK IN PERU

The Peruvian Scientific Network, begun five years ago with seed money from the United Nations Development Fund and now reaching 22,000 subscribers, is the only cooperative network in Latin America that offers public use of computers and is not financed by a government. A Peruvian political analyst says that "the Peruvian network is the first to capture the true spirit of the Internet and cyberspace because it provides access to everyone even if you don't have a computer. It answers that troubling question about access to new technology and whether the average person will be left out of the technological revolution." For \$15 a month the network offers public access to the Internet along with a bank of computers and classes on network navigation. (New York Times 27 May 96 p23)

PROGRAMMING WILL BECOME LIKE PUBLISHING

Former Dataquest analyst Paul Cabbage predicts that "software will look more like publishing. There's a huge well-spring of people who are willing to develop software -- they just don't want to get into marketing and starting a company. The Internet will be like cable TV: a huge monster that eats up interactive content." (The Economist 25 May 96)

WEB MAGAZINE SUSPENDS PUBLICATION

The Web Review < <http://www.webreview.com> >, an online magazine targeted at Web professionals such as site builders and administrators, has stopped publication because advertising revenues are not covering costs. The publisher indicated, however, that the publication would return in June if 5,000 readers would pay \$19.95 for a six-month subscription, or \$3.33 a month, and pleaded: "Remember: You are voting on the future of the Web and what you will find there. Web Review is not alone in having these problems." (New York Times 28 May 96 C2)

AFRICA, TECHNOLOGY, AND GROWTH

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the least-connected place on earth, with almost nothing in the way of phone lines, personal computers and Internet connections. There is an average of one phone line for every 217 people, and 72 percent of the population lives in rural areas where, in some places like Chad, that statistic becomes one phone for every 800 people. Computers are almost nonexistent. A program director at the National Research Council says: "You find in Africa a total lack of computer culture. There are no spare parts. There are no magazines. There's no PC World you can subscribe to." And Larry Irving, head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration says: "It's the same thing as not having a port in the 1600s, or a railroad in the 1900s. So if your economy isn't developing now, and you don't have access to the basic infrastructure of the information highway, you won't grow." (San Jose Mercury News Mercury Center 27 May 96)

INTEL VIDEO-PHONE TECHNOLOGY FOR HOME PC

Intel says that hundreds of thousands of personal computers with video-phone

capabilities will be sold this year and millions more soon thereafter. Using Pentium chips and compression software, the systems could transmit and receive video and audio information simultaneously over standard phone lines, with images at 4 to 12 frames a second. (New York Times 30 May 96 C2)

NCSA HOPES HABANERO'S HOT

The National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois, birthplace of the Mosaic Web browser, has developed another Web application that it hopes will take the Web one step further - into collaboration. Habanero -- named for the hottest chili pepper around -- will allow users in different locations to access a Web site and perform real-time group activities, such as editing or developing a spreadsheet. NCSA will distribute the software free, just as it did with Mosaic, in the hope that others will use the program to design their own collaborative applications. (Wall Street Journal 30 May 96 B4)

SPEEDIER IMAGING FROM KODAK

Eastman Kodak has been working with Microsoft to develop a new imaging technology called Nifty, designed to dramatically speed up the process of editing and transmitting pictures via computer. The Nifty product enters a crowded playing field, with other industry-accepted formats already available, but observers think the company's partnership with Microsoft, which will market a software application for Nifty, will be a big help in garnering market share. The product works by applying editing changes initially to a low resolution version of the high resolution photo. Once all the editing has been done, the changes are made to the high-resolution final version. (Wall Street Journal 29 May 96 B5)

WHO'S MINDING THE (DATA) STORE?

Two online services are offering data archiving services, making it easier for PC users to back up their files on a regular basis. McAfee Associates' Personal Vault offers storage of up to 10 megabytes of data for \$10 a month using McAfee's \$49 WebStor software. Subscribers can access the data an unlimited number of times. Connected's DataSafe plans to charge \$14.95 a month to store 50 megabytes of material, and will also offer archival CD-ROMs for \$24.95 each. (Investor's Business Daily 29 May 96 A6)

WIRELESS CABLE INTERNET ACCESS

CAI Wireless Systems, with the backing of Bell Atlantic and Nynex, is looking to wireless cable technology to offer subscribers Internet access. The company, which has a pilot program underway in the Washington, DC area, plans to make the service commercially available in one or two markets by late fall. CAI says its technology allows users to download data, audio and video at rates seven times faster than most phone-based systems, but skeptics point out that wireless cable systems require direct "line of sight" access to customers' homes, which is often difficult to achieve in areas with lots of hills, trees or buildings. (Wall Street Journal 30 May 96 B11)

YAHOO! CAVES IN ON P&G WEB DEAL

Proctor & Gamble recently joined the madding crowd of companies advertising on the World Wide Web, but it cut a better deal than most when it told Yahoo! it would pay only when a user actually used its ad to click to P&G's own Web site. Most companies pay based on the number of "eyes" that view their ad, similar to the way TV and print advertising is priced. "People think Yahoo! has put a stake in the heart of the industry," by agreeing to P&G's terms, says a VP at Lycos, which turned P&G down. WebTrack Information Services says only about 1% to 2% of Web ads are compelling enough for viewers to want to investigate further. (Business Week 3 Jun 96 p44)

CABLE MODEM SALES TO GO UP, UP, UP

The research firm Dataquest expects high-speed cable modem sales to increase by almost double from 1995's 13,000 shipments to 25,000 shipments in 1996, with shipment levels predicted to reach 80,000 in 1997 and 900,000 by 2000. (USA Today 29 May 96 1B)

MORE JAVA BUZZ

Sun Microsystems announced several enhancements to its Java programming software, including JavaOS, a Java-based operating system that can run on pagers, telephones and other communications devices, and a technology called JavaBeans, which will allow people to write applets from reusable parts that will work with other applications programs. (Wall Street Journal 30 May 96 A3)

WHO WILL TEACH THE TEACHERS?

A consortium of education groups wants to recruit 100,000 computer-knowledgeable teachers, each of whom would be willing to volunteer time this summer mentoring five other teachers on how to use technology in the classroom. < <http://www.ustc.org/21stcentury/> > (USA Today 30 May 96 1A)

CAN THE NETWORK HANDLE THE NETWORK COMPUTER?

With new companies every week enthusiastically endorsing the NC (network computer) concept, some critics are cautioning the idea may not pan out. First, there are the consumers: Gartner Group predicts that "the vast majority of PC users will stick with PCs." And then there's the network itself: "The concept of the network computer means you are putting a very large burden on a very thin pipe," says a Gartner analyst. Some folks think it's just another high-tech hype job: "The network computer is the logical extension of Internet hype -- hype and mind share that is totally out of whack with the value that it represents," says the director of managed data services for CompuServe. (Investor's Business Daily 29 May 96 A6)

CYBERBOOTHES FOR WALK-UP E-MAIL

The San Diego-based software company Atcom/Info has developed public access cyberbooths where travelers can log on to read their e-mail or surf the Web in airports, hotels, convention centers, or other public spaces. A user would enter credit card information to use e-mail systems such as AOL or Netcom, at fees ranging from \$3 for 7 minutes to \$20 for an hour. (New York Times 29 May 96 C5)

MICROSOFT'S BROWSER GETS NEW FEATURES

Microsoft's Internet Explorer Web browser is getting a new look. New versions will include groupware software called NetMeeting, which allows PCs in various locations to simultaneously work on the same applications program for collaborative editing. In addition, will be capable of facilitating audioconferencing over the Internet, a feature recently announced by Netscape in its Navigator software. (Wall Street Journal 29 May 96 B5) Explorer will also recognize the Recreational Software Advisory Council's (RSAC) Web ratings that will allow parents to block Web sites rated as having a high degree of violence, nudity, sex or objectionable language. (USA Today 29 May 96 1D)

BUGS BUNNY CAUGHT IN TRADE DISPUTE

The wascally wabbit and his Looney Tunes friends have fallen victim to the brewing China-U.S. trade war over software and film piracy. China's Central Television, the country's main government-owned network, was scheduled to start showing vintage pre-1950s cartoons, dubbed into Mandarin, beginning Saturday, International Children's Day. Until a decision by the United States on trade sanctions, the series and all other US-imported programs will be banned from CCTV airwaves. (Toronto Globe & Mail 30 May 96 A10)

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Technical support is provided by the Office of Information Technology,
University of North Carolina.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The CAUSE organization's annual conference on information technology in higher education is scheduled for the end of this month in New Orleans. The conference will bring together administrators, academicians and other managers of information resources. For full conference information check out <<http://cause-www.colorado.edu> > or send e-mail to conf@cause.colorado.edu.

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Educom -- Transforming Education Through Information Technology

Kids Computing Corner
Frank Sereno, Editor

The Kids' Computing Corner
Computer news and software reviews
from a parent's point of view

In the News

Apple Announces Macintosh Performa 6320CD
Fastest Home Mac Yet

Apple has just announced the availability of the fastest Macintosh in the Performa line-up. The 6320CD features a 120 MHz 603e PowerPC microprocessor, 16 MB of RAM, 1.2 gigabyte hard drive, quad-speed CD-ROM drive, v.34 modem and a huge software bundle.

The software bundle includes productivity, educational and entertainment titles including ClarisWorks, Quicken Special Edition, The American Heritage Dictionary and Descent. This bundle will aid, inform and entertain new Mac users for many years.

The complete system sells for \$2599 and includes a 15" monitor, keyboard and mouse, and System 7.5.3 preloaded. You can receive more information via fax by calling 1-800-462-4396 in the U.S. or 1-800-263-3394 in Canada. U.S. customers can call 1-800-538-9696 to locate their nearest Apple authorized reseller. You can also visit Apple's Website at <http://www.apple.com>.

Gryphon Software Signs New Licensing Agreements

San Diego's Gryphon Software has just signed licensing and publishing agreements with Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment and DC Comics. They will use their proprietary technology to create new children's CD-ROM software products.

The new titles will be based on characters from the animated television shows "The Adventures of Batman and Robin" and "Superman." These Activity Centers will feature puzzles, spelling and memory games. The Batman title will be release during 1996 while the Superman program will be available in the first half of 1997. Both programs will be available on hybrid-format CD-ROM's for both Windows and Macintosh.

Microsoft Brings Online Learning to the Web

Microsoft is now making online training courses available via the World Wide Web. The Microsoft Online Institute (MOLI) is available at <http://moli.microsoft.com>. Seven courses on Microsoft products are already being taught. The online classes offer many features. Classes can be taken whenever convenient. Online instructors are always available for real-time online assistance. All classes are reasonably priced and browsing the Website is free.

Pixar Announces Toy Story Reaches 100,000 Sales

In only 3 weeks of distribution, Pixar's first CD-ROM title, Disney's Animated StoryBook, Toy Story, has sold more than 100,000 copies. This program is the first to bring full-screen motion picture quality animation to home computers. Based upon the Toy Story movie, the game allows children of all ages to interact with Woody, Buzz Lightyear and the other toys in an

exciting storybook filled with games, puzzles and surprises. It is certainly a hit in my house!

Powerhouse Entertainment Announces New Licensing Deal

The Little Golden Books series will soon be springing to life on home computers on interactive CD-ROM storybooks. Among the featured titles are The Sailor Dog, Right's Animal Farm, The House That Had Enough, The Adventures of Goat, The Little Red Caboose and The Magic Paintbox. The programs will feature reading exercises and fun activities. Powerhouse Entertainment has been noted for its entertainment titles and this is its first foray into educational programming.

Broderbund Releases \$-saving Bundles

Broderbund Software has recently announced six new software bundles. Each is guaranteed to educate and entertain your child. These bundles include many award-winning titles. All bundles are Macintosh and Windows compatible.

The first bundle is the Learning Advantage Library 1. It is designed for children ages 3 to 7 and includes four complete programs. The Playroom introduces children to letters, numbers, phonics and time concepts. James Discovers Math reinforces number recognition while introducing new concepts such as measurement, estimation, sorting and shape recognition. It is filled with video sing-alongs and fun activities. Carmen Sandiego Junior Detective helps children develop memory and logic skills while exploring world geography and sociology. Kid Pix Studio is an easy to use paint program that allows young children to create beautiful art and stories. Suggested retail price is \$79.95.

The Learning Advantage Library 2 features four programs designed for children ages 8 to 12. Logical Journey of the Zoombinis builds math and logic skills as children solve interactive puzzles to lead the cute and lovable Zoombinis to freedom. The Amazing Writing Machine helps youngster to write cohesively and creatively by providing useful tools and encouraging writing in different formats. Reading Galaxy builds reading comprehension and problem solving skills as children are asked to answer questions based upon passages excerpted from thirty children's literature classics. Finally, children will learn more about U.S. geography by pursuing Carmen Sandiego and her gang in Where in the USA is Carmen Sandiego? Suggested retail price is \$79.95 on this package also.

For ages 9 and up, Broderbund is offering the Carmen Advantage Library. This bundle includes Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?, Where in the USA is Carmen Sandiego? and PC Globe Maps 'n' Facts. Children will learn about world and American geography through these three titles. The Carmen Sandiego titles also offer great gameplay and encourage logical thinking and deductive reasoning. Two printed almanacs are included for solving hints in the Sandiego games. The suggested retail price is again \$79.95.

But that's not all that Broderbund is offering in summertime values. They are also offering the Creative Advantage Library. This bundle consists of only two titles, Kid Pix Studio and The Amazing Writing Machine. Kid Pix Studio is an award-winning paint program that uses painting, animation, sound and more so children can produce multimedia creations. The Amazing Writing Machine encourages children to write in five different forms: story, letter, journal, essay and poem. This bundle also carries a suggested price of \$79.95.

The final two bundles feature animated storybooks from Living Books. Each

Three for Me Library contains three complete storybooks that will help children ages three to five to learn reading and vocabulary. Volume 1 contains Sheila Rae-The Brave, Just Grandma and Me and Little Monster at School. Volume 2 contains The Berenstain Bears Get in a Fight, Tortoise and the Hare and Harry and the Haunted House. Each volume has a suggested retail price of \$59.95.

Frank's note:

Look in this section for upcoming reviews of James Discovers Math, Logical Journey of the Zoombinis and Math Workshop. I am currently doing research on these titles and I am very favorably impressed with all three. Full reviews of all three titles should be done in the next two weeks.

Our Times
Dual-format CD-ROM for Windows and Macintosh
\$69.95
ages 10 and up
Vicarious, Inc.
Three Lagoon Drive
Suite 300
Redwood City, CA 94065
<http://www.vicarious.com>

Program Requirements

IBM	Macintosh
OS: Windows 3.1, Windows 95	OS: System 7.1
CPU: 486	CPU: 68030
HD Space: 3 MB	HD Space: 3 MB
Memory: 4 MB	Memory: 4 MB
Graphics: 640 by 480 with 256 colors, 13" monitor	Graphics: 256
CD-ROM: Double-speed recommended	CD-ROM: Double-speed
Audio: 8-bit Windows compatible sound card	
Other: printer, mouse	Other:
printer	

reviewed by Frank Sereno

Our Times is a multimedia encyclopedia of the Twentieth Century. It combines over 52,000 articles, more than 2,500 images, numerous video segments and 120 minutes of narration into an entertaining history experience. Our Times is a rich, intricately woven tapestry of life over the last ninety-seven years. It is based upon the best-selling book, Our Times Illustrated History from Turner Publishing.

The first feature of the program that I noticed was the deep bass voice of James Earl Jones, the award-winning actor. His narration is a musical, rolling thunder of depth and emotion. His voice is inspiring and intriguing, a real listening pleasure.

The program features an easy-to-use point-and-click interface. You can click on a decade graphic to journey to that particular decade or you can pick a year on the timeline. Each decade features a video tour narrated by Jones, a text essay and a selection of graphs and charts that show the important trends of that decade. Each year has text with graphics devoted to various

topics including international news, science and technology, politics and science and more. The text is laced with hypertext links to related articles.

Our Times includes the complete text of the Columbia Encyclopedia. The program has a great, quick search engine that can find related articles both in the Our Times features and in the Columbia Encyclopedia section. Articles can be bookmarked for later reading. The text and images can be exported for use in word processors or they can be printed.

Our Times is an eclectic mix of prose and images. Many authors contributed articles and essays so the writings are in many styles. This keeps the text from becoming monotonous and boring. The program is a great research tool, but even more it is very enjoyable to use. You can just browse it, jumping from link to link at your whim. You'll be learning new facts much of the time, but it won't be a labor. It's almost like surfing the best of the Web without waiting for images and text to download. All in all, Our Times is an entertaining and informative program on modern history that will be a welcome addition to most home software libraries.

Portable Computers Section
Marty Mankins, Editor

Zenographics STR Focus

Zenographics SuperPrint 4.0

New Features

True 32-bit printing architecture. All the real printing work is done in fully-preemptive multitasking Win32 modules, which means you'll be able to work comfortably doing other things while your printer prints!

A completely new SuperQueue offers direct graphics file printing, print preview, more control over print job processing, helpful job status information (including job logging), and enhanced, bi-directional network support.

SuperQueue filters provide drag and drop printing capabilities: you can now drag and drop a JPEG, TIFF, GIF, PostScript, BMP or SMF file and print without the originating application. (See sample files for drag & drop printing below.)

PostScript Level 2 support is available for your non-PostScript printer by

using either the ZScript PostScript language filter or by Masquerade-generated drivers.

The Bitmap SuperDriver now generates JPEG and GIF files in addition to BMP, Targa, TIFF, and DCX.

Automatic adjustments provide for the best image printing: for 8-bit grayscale and 24-bit color images, SuperQueue image filters can perform automatic adjustment of contrast and lightness. For many natural images, these adjustments provide a dramatic visual result!

New models have been added to the Canon BJ (BubbleJet) SuperDriver, DeskJet SuperDriver, Epson Stylus and LaserJet SuperDriver.

Adjust dot gain and hue values: We've included a useful testing procedure for making dot gain and hue value adjustments. It consists of a test file for dot gain, a test file for hue matching, and a Write file that explains how to use them. The instruction file is located on the CD ROM in \UTILS\COLORFIX.WRI.

High End SuperDrivers

High End SuperDrivers (SuperDrivers for specialty devices such as film recorders, plotters, dye-sublimation printers, etc.) for Windows 95 and Windows NT will be developed soon after the release of Standard SuperPrint 4.0. Information on the availability of specific printer drivers will be posted on our World Wide Web site: <http://www.zeno.com>, The Microsoft Network, go word: zeno, and our CompuServe Forum, GO ZENO.

To install a high end SuperDriver, begin by installing SuperPrint from the CD ROM. When presented with the add printer window with the list of printers to install, click Have Disk and insert the high end diskette.

Contrast Settings

SuperDrivers in SuperPrint 3.1 had typical default Contrast settings of 15% to enhance image printing -- a one-size-fits-all approach that also caused the loss of very light and very dark tones in other graphics. The new SuperQueue's automatic contrast enhancements find the right contrast for each image, so SuperPrint 4.0 defaults SuperDriver Contrast to zero to restore very light and dark tones. If you print images from applications other than SuperQueue, and the SuperPrint 4.0 image quality appears "flat" compared to SuperPrint 3.1, try setting Image / Contrast to 15%.

Sample Files for Drag & Drop Printing

If you would like to try out the new drag & drop printing feature of SuperPrint 4.0, we have provided sample files for you on the CD. The files are located in the SAMPLES directory organized by file format. For example you will find JPEG files in the SAMPLES\JPEG, GIF files in the SAMPLES\GIF directory. Simply drag & drop one of them onto the appropriate SuperQueue printer window. Print times should be remarkably quick. There is a very large bitmap called GOODFACE.BMP in SAMPLES\BIG that is 18 MB: 2048x3072 pixels in full 24-bit color. While this file will print quickly using the BMP filter, most imaging applications will handle it very slowly.

For CD-ROM users, we have also included "Artpack," a library of over 1,000 clip art images in Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) format. These files can be imported into many word processing and desktop publishing applications. If you have installed SuperQueue's ZScript filter, you can also view these

drawings and copy-and-paste them using the Windows clipboard to other applications. More complete documentation can be found in \ARTPACK\ARTPACK.DOC on the CD-ROM.

Development of "High End" SuperPrint 4.0

"High End" SuperDrivers for Windows 95 and Windows NT will be developed soon after the release of Standard SuperPrint 4.0. Information on the availability of specific drivers will be posted on our World Wide Web site: <http://www.zeno.com>, The Microsoft Network, go word: zeno, and our CompuServe Forum, GO ZENO.

Viewing & Printing the Documentation

The SuperPrint 4.0 manual is provided on disk in Microsoft Word 6 format. If you don't have Word 6, Word Viewer can be installed from the CD to view and print the documentation. On the CD, the file is \SP40\SP40.doc. On the Documentation diskette, the file is SP40.DOC. Word Viewer may be downloaded from Microsoft's World Wide Web site (www.microsoft.com).

If you decide to print the SuperPrint manual, we suggest that you try printing it "duplex," that is, using both sides of the paper. If your printer does not have a duplexing feature, this can be accomplished as follows (this procedure assumes a printer that outputs documents face down):

With the document loaded into Word or Word Viewer, first determine if the total number of pages is even or odd. (This can be seen in the status bar at the bottom of the window or by choosing File/Summary Info./Statistics.)

- '• Choose Print from the File menu.
- '• Make sure Page Range is All.
- '• From the Print: drop-down list box at the bottom of the dialog choose Odd pages.
- '• Set any other options as needed, then click OK.
- '• When printing of the odd numbered pages is complete, take the entire output and place it back in the paper tray. Make sure the paper feeds so that

the unprinted side will receive the new pages and the top edges of the printed (odd) side and new (even) side will correspond.

- '• If the total page count is an odd number, remove the top sheet (this should be the last page of the index).
- '• Choose Print from the File menu.
- '• Make sure Page Range is All.
- '• From the Print: drop-down list box at the bottom of the dialog choose Even pages.
- '• Click the Options. button.
- '• From the Print tab, choose Reverse Print Order and click OK.
- '• Click OK from the Print dialog.

For printers that deliver output face-up, Reverse Print Order should be on for both odd and even printing, and you should print the even pages first. If the document is an odd number of pages long, you'll need to add a blank page to the top of the stack before printing the odd pages.

File Format for STReport

All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files received that do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an importable word processor format for Word 7.0.. The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used. Please use proportional fonting only and at eleven points.

- '• No Indenting on any paragraphs!!
- '• No underlining!
- '• Column Format shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Do NOT use the space bar.
- '• No ASCII "ART"!!
- '• There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if lengthy
- '• Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file formats
- '• Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.) should be sent along with the article separately
- '• Please use a single font only in an article. TTF CG Times 12pt. is preferred. (VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call. On another note. the ASCII version of STReport is fast approaching the "end of the line" As the major Online Services move away from ASCII.. So shall STReport. All in the name of progress and improved readability. The amount of reader mail expressing a preference for our Adobe PDF enhanced issue is running approximately 15 to 1 over the ASCII edition. Besides, STReport will not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must move forward. However, if the ASCII readership remains as high, rest assured. ASCII will stay. Right now, since STReport is offered on a number of closed major corporate networks as "required" Monday Morning reading.. Our ascii readers have nothing to worry themselves about. Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor

Atari: Jaguar/Computer Section
Dana Jacobson, Editor

From the Atari Editor's Desk

"Saying it like it is!"

It's been a rotten week! No, not the weather ' < it was a terrific long holiday weekend. I was still a little under the weather, but I didn't let that stop me from enjoying it. What was rotten was returning to work for a hectic short week. And, to top it all off, it was horrendous for "working" on this week's column and finding myself stumped for articles and information this week!

It's been "slow" on more than one occasion over the years, but nothing seemed to gel this week. Blame it on the traditional "rites of spring and summer" with the Memorial Day weekend and things are historically slow at this time of year; or blame it on the passage of time having a really significant impact on news ' < it doesn't matter and it doesn't make it any easier...

A few weeks ago, I re-printed a letter from one of our readers who requested a listing of dealers. I agreed that such a listing would be a significant item for our readers. I've been working on that list and will provide it in this issue. However, I was hoping that I'd have a more complete list by this time.. I don't. I will print what I have up to now, but will promise to keep updating it and put out a more complete list in a future issue. I've also included the two North American hard copy magazines and addresses, etc. for those of you who are looking for additional news sources: ST Informer and Current Notes.

Also in my travels, I've seen a number of requests for information from people trying to figure out what "sense code" and other error messages mean. From my archives, I've dug out this listing which has been printed a number of times over the years, but seems appropriate to re-print again.

Normally, the Atari section of STReport would include a section on Atari computing and another for Atari gaming with the Jaguar. This week's Jaguar section will be omitted for the simple reason that there's nothing new to report. Reviews are still in various stages of completion, regretfully, as well. As I mentioned above, it's been a really bad week. The only gaming news that's even remotely connected to Atari is a news item about Nolan Bushnell and his latest project. That article will appear this week as I realize that many of you like to keep up with news of Atari's "creator".

Until next time...

(Editor Note.)

Due to weird formatting the dealer listing was totally corrupted when received. Perhaps we can get a copy of the full listing in plain ascii without tabs and other atari specific text commands embedded in the file.
.sorry

rfm

Hard Drive Sense Codes

\$	ERROR	MEANING
00	No sense	No error occurred or error clear before REQUEST SENSE COMMAND
01	No Index/Sector read,	No index or sector signal found during write or format
02	No Seek	No Seek complete signal missing
03	Write fault writes.	Drive detected failure which dis-allows Write protect is detected during a write command
04	Drive not ready	
06	No track 0	Track 0 not found
10	ID CRC error	ID field could not be recovered by retry
11	Uncorrectable Data Error retry or	Data field error could not be recovered by correction
12	ID address mark not found	Missing ID address mark
14	Record not found but no ID CRC	Logical block ID not on accessed tracks, error
15	Seek error	Could not seek to track with correct ID
16-17	Not assigned	
18	Data check in NO retry mode	See send diagnostic command

19	ECC error during Verify	See verify command
1A	Interweave error number of sectors	Interweave variable is greater than the per track.
1B	Not assigned	
1C	Unformatted or bad format in Drive	Format failed, no valid format on drive
1D-1F,22,26		Not assigned
20	Illegal Command	Command code is invalid or not implemented
21	Illegal Block Logical unit	Block address outside address space by
23	Volume overflow	Illegal block address after first block
24	Bad Argument parameter	Reserved bit not zeroed or invalid
25	Invalid logical number	Logical unit greater than 1 addressed unit
28	Cartridge changed the last time a executed	A disk cartridge was installed since command was
2C	Error count overflow threshold	Posted when error count exceeds specified

Note: ICD does not use defect list for low level formatting....

HARD DRIVE AND CONTROLLER STATUS MESSAGES

\$01	No index/sector signal.
\$02	No seek complete.
\$03	Write Fault. The operation was terminated with an unrecovered error condition probably caused by a flaw in the media. This indicates that there is a problem, probably a bad sector.
\$04	Drive Not Ready.
\$05	Drive Not Selected.
\$06	No Track Zero Found.
\$10	ID or CRC Error.
\$11	Unrecovered read error of data blocks.
\$12	No address mark found in ID field.
\$13	No address mark found in data field.
\$14	No record found.
\$15	Seek positioning error.
\$17	Recovered read data with controller/drive READ retries.
\$18	Recovered read data with controller/drive error correction code.
\$19	Defect list error.
\$1A	Parameter overrun.
\$1C	Primary defect list not found.
\$1E	Recovered ID with controller/drive ECG.
\$20	Invalid command operation.
\$21	Illegal logical block address (LBA). Address greater than the LBA returned by the read capacity data with PMI bit not set in CDB.
\$22	Illegal function for device type.
\$24	Illegal field in CDB.
\$25	Invalid logical unit number (LUN).
\$26	Invalid field in parameter list.
\$27	Write protected.
\$29	Power on or reset or bus device reset occurred.
\$2A	Mode select parameters changed.
\$30	Incompatible cartridge.
\$31	Medium format corrupted.
\$32	No defect spare sector available.
\$40	RAM failure.

\$44 Internal controller error.
\$45 Select/reselect failed.
\$46 Unsuccessful soft reset.
\$49 Inappropriate/illegal message.

Pong Pioneer Joins Net Startup

A New York-based Internet startup hopes a video game pioneer will help it make a big splash in cyber-entertainment. Aristo International Corp. says Nolan Bushnell, founder of Atari Corp., has joined the company to direct strategic planning and spearhead its drive into Internet-enabled entertainment.

Bushnell, whose Pong launched the video game business, now intends to transform the game industry with a new generation of products.

"Multiplayer, networked games and experiences represent the next wave in entertainment," says Bushnell. "Aristo will not merely introduce new titles, but entirely new concepts in entertainment." The company's first products are scheduled for release this year. "Nolan's vision is nothing short of a second revolution in digital entertainment," says Mouli Cohen, president and CEO of Aristo. Aristo International designs and develops networked, multiplayer experiences for both pay-per-play venues and at-home use. The company is headquartered in New York City and has operations in Foster City, California and Sterling, Virginia.

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine

The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

On CompuServe

compiled by
Joe Mirando
73637,2262

Hidi ho friends and neighbors. Summer isn't really here yet, but already I can see its effect in the forum and libraries here on CompuServe. Yes, things are getting a bit sluggish and some are wondering if it's more than simply the allure of summer fun. Could it be that the Atari platform is finally breathing its last? I don't think so. There are plenty of folks like myself that realize that our computers are no longer state-of-the-art and that there are faster, more powerful computers out there, but we realize that ours do everything we need them to for now and that it would be foolish not to use them until they won't do something that we need them to do.

As long as we are comfortable with what we've got, the community will live on. It may get smaller... heck, it WILL get smaller... but I've made so many good friends at computer shows and through the three online services over the years and now from folks over the Internet, that they are as important to me as the things that I use my computer for.

So let the world of Techno-Lemmings run at full tilt toward the cliff of never-ending advancement for advancement's sake. I'll sit here very comfortably, thank you very much, among my friends and my tried- and-true Atari. Now let's take a look at some of the news, hints, tips, and info available every week right here on CompuServe.

From the Atari Computing Forums

Rob Rasmussen asks for e-mail help:

"I need some info on how to send a scanned pic in email to another user on Cis who uses a PC/Windows. Actually I use VideoMaster to capture color stills, and they look best in my Falcon's True Color mode when I save them as TIF. Does an average PC (whatever that is) need anything special to view the true color TIF? I sent to one user who is helping me test this, and he said the TIF, which looks great on my screen, was a big black rectangle on his PC screen. I also converted the TIF to GIF and it looks ok but it loses a lot in the dither down to 256 colors, and it makes the size of the image shrink. When I send the pic TEST.TIF or GIF in email I upload it as a binary file, but when the pc user gets it, it is named *.* and he has to rename it. Any way it can retain the filename I gave it?"

Albert Dayes of Atari Explorer Online Magazine tells Rob:

"You might try a different file format other than TIF like Targa or something similar and see if that works better."

Mark Kelling adds:

"The current best format for sending pictures for Windows machines is JPG. Hopefully there is an ST product which can produce that in full color -- GEM View will, right? Let your friend know that if he views the received file (regardless of the format) in WinCIM, some video modes produce black screens even if the picture is viewable by other viewer programs!"

Rob tells Mark:

"...I wasn't sure if JPG supported true color, I know that like Gif, many JPGs like in forum libraries on cis have 256 colors, unless they have the millions of colors but I am just seeing them with the fewer colors. I talked to a friend who does have a 24 bit graphics board on his pc who will help me test this. I'm still curious if changing video modes on the pc is necessary - maybe the card takes care of that? For instance, could you be viewing a true color pic on a pc while running WinCim? I'm used to running certain programs in different rez depending on what its for on the Atari, so I just wondered if a PC would be similar in that way."

Andreas Rosenberg adds:

"True-Color capabilities are more the problem of the graphics driver and the operating system. Most VGA cards now have at least 1MB that allow resolutions upto 640x480 with 24bit true color. With 2MB you can get upto 800x600 and with 4MB 1024x768. With Windows95 you can change the resolution without quitting applications as long as the number of colors remains the same. Usually PC users hate to change the resolution, because this requires to change the video driver and many programs that store resolution dependent data (cached bitmaps, window positions) reset such information.

When sending graphic files to someone using a different computer platform

it's important that both use a program that's able to deal with the used format. JPEG, GIF, TIF, BMP are widely used graphics format's. All except GIF allow true color. JPEG however uses lossy compression algorithms and works best with photographic pictures."

Sysop Bob Retelle tells Rob:

"The other answers to your question really only relate to changing the default graphics resolution on a PC... that is, the resolution your desktop will be in when you boot the system. Graphics viewing programs can change the resolution "on the fly" so you can view a picture in a different resolution than your default resolution, then change it back when you're done seeing the picture. Also, realize that there is some confusion in terms here. Atari considers the 65,000 color mode of the Falcon to be "true color", while the rest of the world calls that mode "high color." They consider "true color" to be the 16,000,000 color mode.

As I mentioned in another reply, a good PC graphics viewing program like COMPUSHOW.EXE can take care of displaying pictures in almost any resolution, as long as your hardware (video card, video memory, and monitor) can display those resolutions."

Trevor Milner posts:

"I was a devout Atari ST owner until a short while ago, when I upgraded to a PC. I still own a lot of ST Games and I am particularly interested in continuing programming in STOS which I have become accustomed to and grown to like. Is there any way that I can use my old ST games on my new PC? If not is there an IBM Compatible version of STOS available?"

Mark Kelling tells Trevor:

"You can get the Atari emulator card for the PC called GEMULATOR. It puts a real live ST into your PC. Compatibility is very good since the card uses actual ST ROM chips. You can contact Toad Computers since they sell it (sorry I don't have a number handy, but you can reach them via Internet at <http://www.toad.net/>)"

When Fred Heath asks about changing the icons on his stock desktop, Simon Churchill tells him:

"The Icon's of TOS 1.2 are fixed, to have changable icon's you require a version of TOS either 2.06 or above. However there are other desktop's about, some are commercial and multi task other's are public domain and you use at your own risk.

I know of the following desktop's or completely new system TOS compatible desktop's which are better and may have icon abilities:

- ˆ• Thing
- ˆ• Teradesk
- ˆ• Neo Desk
- ˆ• MulitTOS (MiNT)
- ˆ• TOS 2.06 ROM Upgrade, a good choice.
- ˆ• TOS 3.05 (Disk version, very rare unless you know where to get it)
- ˆ• Magic, a new one to the Atari fold.
- ˆ• Geneva, not the location but a cooperative multi-tasking system.

Some of the above are free from PD libraries, other's are ROM's or dated system's available as second hand, the last are the latest and commercial,

however with system's getting bigger and better then a suitable machine is needed to make use of them.

If your're out to have a look then check out 'a' for starter's, but best for now would be 'b', it is very good. If there's nothing in the forum libraries let me know and I'll upload a suitable version."

Kris Gasteiger tells Fred and Simon:

"I sort of remember a shareware Icon loader/editor for the earlier TOS versions. I recall playing with it on my ST under TOS 1.0, and TOS 1.4. It may be here in the archives. Regardless, I'll search my collection of ancient (circa 1986) shareware stuff, and upload the thing if I find it."

Simon tells Kris:

"WOW! 1986 Man, back to the good old day's. That was when the ST and STM were about, the STFM was a while away then!! Look hard, I'd be interested for my TOS 1.02, the icon's are boring."

Kris replies:

"Hey Simon, I'm searching... '86 sure was the "good ol' days" for Atari. I got my 520 ST for Christmas that year. I even still use it, though mostly for games since I fried its (external) hard disk while trying to install the whole shebang in a pc case. The replacement hard disk is connected to the Falcon I bought a couple of years ago (my main computer). I did a quick check of the CIS forum libs, there are icon files for a STart magazine icon loader, but not the loader itself. Antic publishing holds the copywrite to the program, so under current CIS rules, I can't upload THAT program. I do recall a shareware equivilant...

I've checked over 100 disks in my archives with no luck... They're not catologed... I'll keep checking... If I don't find it by next week, one of the replacement desktops will do much more anyway and is probably worth the cost. I prefer my machine stock for some odd reason.<G>"

On the Jaguar scene, John Moreno asks about using an "ST" monitor with his game console:

"Does anyone know what the resolution on the Atari SC1224 monitors is? I'm thinking of getting one for my Jag and wanted to know if it was worth it."

Albert Dayes of Atari Explorer Online Magazine tells John:

"I believe the SC1224 is 320x200 x16 colors and 640x200 by 4 colors."

Tom Harker of ICD tells Albert and John:

"Analog RGB moniotrs don't have small color limitations. Most should be able to handle 16.7million colors since they are analog. The color limitations are on the ST computer end. The old digital RGBi monitors were usually limited to 16 colors."

Sysop Bob Retelle adds:

"From all reports, the SC1224 is an *excellent* choice for the Jaguar. As Tom mentioned, it should be able to handle all the color the Jag can throw at it, and it's picture is sharp enough to give you excellent detail. At the price Don Thomas is asking, it would be a steal for a Jaguar! The only

possible drawback I can think of is its small screen size, but if you're the only one watching the screen, that might not be a big deal."

Do you remember a while back when there was some discussion about a "grass-roots" campaign to develop a CIM type navigator for the Atari line of computers? Well, it turns out that CompuServe has decided to adapt their service to HTML, the same language that is used on the World Wide Web. What this means is that in order to use all of CompuServe's cool options, you won't need to ask CompuServe for permission to develop a special application. All you'll need is a Web Browser like NetScape, Mosaic, or Internet Explorer for the PC, or CAB, Chimera, or Oasis for the ST. This is good news... as long as one of the Atari Browsers reaches a reasonable level of usability and compatibility with the current and future HTML standard.

Mark Kelling posts:

"Well, I guess everyone on the team has received the note from Steven about CIS' reponse to the request to let our team develop an HMI CIM type product for the ST. We were turned down in case you haven't heard, and told to concentrate on Web Browser development for the ST. This was quite disturbing to me, thinking that CompuServe had pulled the plug without even giving us a chance. Seeing a nearly simultaneous announcement that the Apple Newton CIM product had been released seemed like a slap in the face. This CIM for the Newton seemed like exactly the product we were on the path to developing -- a cross between an automated browser (like QuickCIS) and the full CIM package and offering the best of both.

Well, I saw the announcement today about the "new" CompuServe approach to doing business which they have code named "RED DOG" (hmmm, maybe after a hard night drinking? ;-)) and my misgivings are gone! This new system will allow full and totally unrestricted access to every nook and cranny of CompuServe using your trusty Web Browser. No more HMI, no more B Protocol, no more CIM. If you can browse the 'Net, you can access Compuserve! All to be in place by Christmas time. With a properly configured browser, this should be fantastic. And it means one less application cluttering up my hard drive! Now, that part about developing the browser makes sense.

The bottom line for us Atari users is that we, now more than ever, need to get CAB/STik whipped into shape and supporting full Netscape HTML 3.0 functionality and a PPP connection. This can be done. Let's all throw our efforts behind CAB/STik and by Christmas we won't have to feel left out of the latest and greatest developments in the world of CompuServe."

The Big Kahuna himself, Chief Sysop Ron Luks, tells Mark:

"I appreciate your enthusiasm and agree that RED DOG is better news for Atari owners than an Atari CIM, but I need to correct some overly optimistic statements you made. First of all, RED DOG projects (Internet/HTML applications) will begin appearing by year end. That does not in any way mean the existing information service will all be converted to HTML by year end. Far from it.

Secondly, there has been NO information that the Forums will be converted to HTML. In fact, there's a lot of doubt about that aspect. ASCII access to forums will remain longer than previously anticipated, though, which is a good thing for Atari owners...

Herb Kahn's statements WERE exactly as you quoted. I shouldn't have said you were wrong-- I should have said HERb Kahn was wrong. [sorry, grin]

And yes, Mr Kahn's press release was incorrect and misleading to say the least. The fact of the matter is that the full service will NOT, repeat, will NOT be available under HTML by year end. This is more than just saying CIS will probably miss the target date (like most software misses target dates). This isn't even the plan as announced by every other spokesman for CompuServe.

To be honest, I'll be surprised if even a "significant" part of the service is available in HTML by year end. Some parts, yes-- most parts, very, very unlikely-- ALL parts- no way in hell. As for forums, the problem is that there is no equally capable, off the shelf solution available under Internet/HTML technology TODAY. If such software does not exist, what are the odds CIS can have it written in less than a year and a half? Remember, this is the company that couldn't port their HMI forums from DEC mainframes to NT servers in 3 1/2 years of trying hard.....

The bottom line is that good things are coming but Mr Kahns press release did a disservice to everyone else involved in supporting this service."

Mark tells Ron:

"That's OK. I should know by now that in the world of computers and software, hype is king! Promise the impossible, delay the inevitable, and finally release something that isn't quite what was originally announced. But, it doesn't hurt to hope, does it? ;-)"

Anyway, all of CIS is already available through the Internet (technically). You can Telnet in from any 'Net provider which offers that option and access any ASCII area you can normally reach when you log in to the regular CIS phone node. If you have a Telnet Tool on your System 7.5 Mac you can even use MacCIM through the Telnet connection to access the HMI locations too! BTW, it's great to have Netscape, AOL and CIS all running and active at the same time through the Telnet links. Not very useful, but it impresses those PC types who can't make the same thing happen on their Pentium machines! ;-)"

I jump in and tell Mark:

"I'm glad that I'm not the only one that found the recommendation odd. I had heard nothing about HTML development for CIS, and didn't immediately connect HTML with CIS.

I'm quite hopeful about CAB/STik in general. The amount of development that the authors have put into these applications is impressive (even more because it's not a commercial product). I'm also looking into OASIS because it is supposed to provide PPP right now. I haven't had time to take a serious look at it yet but, at this point, ANY Browser is a godsend for us.

The problem is that without a healthy (read "large") userbase, we may have to wait for quite a while each time a new feature is added to either CIS or HTML itself... remember waiting to get CIS B+? Zmodem? BTW, your "P.S." doesn't throw me one little bit! I'll bet you get a great big check every time you post anything positive! <very big grin> As soon as I have a chance to check out OASIS or hear anything from anyone else, I'll post it here."

Mark misunderstands my point about zmodem and tells me:

"I'm still waiting for Zmodem on CIS, unless they snuck it in without telling me! ;-)"

The OASIS product sounds interesting. Where can I grab a copy? What info do you have it?

One good thing about the HTML conversion (or parallel evolution) of CIS is that it would seem to be a rather straightforward move. Also, we Atari users wouldn't be the only group benefiting from Browser access. Mac and PC users would be at the top of the list to benefit from the change. We can jump on the bandwagon with them. The cash expended by CIS on constantly updating and improving the CIM product is quite a large amount. Why not let Netscape and the other Browser retailers spend all that cash instead?"

I tell Mark:

"I'm still waiting for ZModem on CIS as well... but I was refering to the early telecom programs for the ST in general and not the ST/CIS interface in particular. I'll upload the latest version of Oasis after I've gone through the documentation. I'm not accustomed to having a prg before someone uploads it here to CIS. I want to see if there is some sort of prohibition against uploading it to commercial services..."

It's unlikely, but possible.

I fully agree about CIS allowing the use of HTML for access. It will indeed free up a good deal of their resources. They'll still have to set things up in HTML format, but that's gotta be easier than designing, de-bugging, distributing, and supporting their own proprietary access program. My only worry (well, not my only worry) is that we'll be constantly two or three upgrades behind what CIS has to offer."

Well folks, that's about it for this week. Tune in again next time, same time, same station, and be ready to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

EDITORIAL QUICKIES

"Men are very confident people. My husband is so confident that when he watches sports on television, he thinks that if he concentrates he can help his team. If the team is in trouble, he coaches the players from our living room, and if they're really in trouble, I have to get off the phone in case they call him."

Gilda Radner

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STR OnLine! "YOUR INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE" May 31, 1996
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